

WOMEN'S VU

September 1981

A publication of the Vanderbilt University Women's Center

IV:1

Vanderbilt Engineers Win National Award

The Vanderbilt Student Section of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) has received the highest national honor awarded student members of the society. The group won the Union Carbide Award for Best Student Section, 1980-81.

VU's 50 women competed against over 6000 students in 170 SWE Sections in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The \$500 prize, awarded at the National Conference in June, was based on the quality of the students' written report on the year's activities and their success in fulfilling SWE goals. The VU women were recognized for their professional approach to organizing and carrying out their long list of projects.

Three VU SWE representatives accepted the honor at the Conference at Disneyland. Those attending were Barbara Wysock, new student president of the VU Section; Paula Ehresman, winner of the first VU award for Best SWE Member; and Martha Nord, Counselor and Faculty Advisor for the group.

Vanderbilt's winning projects promoted four SWE goals: (1) informing young women, parents, counselors and the general public about opportunities in engineering for women; (2) offering career guidance and professional development for members; (3) recruiting new members and involving a high percentage of members in SWE activities; and (4) providing a network of information about the organization and women in engineering.

SWE plans to continue two projects singled out for special recognition: the Engineering School newsletter and the outreach program for high school students and guidance counselors.

SWE launched the newsletter, *Engineering Network*, to accomplish two goals. The publication serves as an information network of students, faculty, and administration in the Engineering School. It also links the school with other groups, on and off campus, with news of current activities and issues in the Engineering School. In a year, the staff has grown from three to fourteen, with men and women students involved.

continued on page 4

The Wit and Wisdom of Women Writers

Elizabeth Langland of the Department of English will lead the first meeting of the newly-organized Women's Studies book group on Wednesday, September 23. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, with Karen Heldmeyer, Assistant Professor of Psychology; and Wednesday, November 18, with Antonina Gove, Associate Professor of Germanic and Slavic Languages. The series will continue in the spring semester.

Each meeting will begin with a 15 or 20 minute review of the selected book by the faculty/leader. This will be followed by general discussion.

The Bookstore will stock copies of the books to be reviewed. Students are encouraged to read the material, although it is not essential for enjoyment of the sessions.

All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Women's Center, E-2 West Side Row. Light refreshments will be served. The discussions are open to all students and other interested persons.

It will help with planning to know how many will attend. Sign-up forms are available at the Peabody Post Office, at Sarratt, and at the Women's Center, listing the readings for each date in the fall term. Reminders will be sent to those who register in advance about a week before each session.

The Child Care Task Force will distribute a questionnaire to all persons on campus during the week of September 21st. Volunteers are needed to help with this distribution and gathering of data.

The questionnaire has been designed (and extensively reviewed over the summer) to discern both the actual need of day care among Vanderbilt families and the level of support campus-wide for a Vanderbilt day care program.

The task force plans to present the survey findings with specific proposals to the administration early in 1982.

For further information or to volunteer to help, please call the Women's Center, 322-4843.

CAR CLINIC BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8

A basic auto mechanics course will be taught on campus this fall. Meeting on Tuesday and Thursday, September 8-October 1, from 4-6 p.m., the Car Clinic will focus on practical concerns: checking battery and fluid levels, changing tires and using a jack, doing a "lube job", and finding out how to purchase a used car, plus other topics.

Easter Gray, who taught a very popular shorter version of this course during Women's Week last year, will lecture and demonstrate procedures on students' own cars. She brings a wide variety of experience to the classes. Currently employed as a machinist for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, she has also taught auto mechanics courses for the YWCA.

Enrollment for the course is limited; registration forms can be obtained from the Women's Center, 322-4843, or at the Sarratt desk and Peabody post office area. Classes will meet in parking lot 72C, which is between the Band Hall and the Holiday Inn parking lot on 25th Avenue South. In the event of rain, class will be held at the Women's Center. A fee of \$40.00 will be charged for the 8-class course.

Affirmative Action Training Program

A series of training sessions to educate all supervisors and managers regarding the University's Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action (EEO/AA) policy are being conducted by the Opportunity Development Center.

According to Patricia Pierce, Acting Director of the Opportunity Development Center, these training sessions are planned to provide supervisors with information necessary to carry out their EEO/AA responsibilities. Supervisors play a major role in ensuring that non-discriminatory personnel policies are followed; having immediate contact with employees, the supervisor is the first person to be aware of any potential problems.

For further information, please call Patricia Pierce, 322-4705.

A Tribute to Professor Mauksch

Last spring, women from the Board of Trust met with women from all parts of the campus. During that meeting Roberta Smith, Associate Professor of Nursing, presented a tribute to Ingeborg Mauksch, Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing. The following is a shortened version of Dr. Smith's remarks.

Ingeborg G. Mauksch is on leave from Vanderbilt University. She is the first holder of the Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing Chair at Vanderbilt University and a Senior Program Consultant for the Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Faculty Fellowships in Primary Care. The fact she has not resigned offers only a small hope that she will return to us. Her leaving is a symbol of her way of living. That is, she is a courageous woman who follows what both her mind and heart say. That is the best of womanhood—courage, intelligence and sensitivity!

Inge's life - her professional career and personal life - stands for us who know her as a model. It is not a model of perfection. If it were, it would be unattainable for us. Instead, we can look to Inge for signs of how we can embody the highest principles of womanhood, academia, humanitarianism and humanness.

Inge's career in nursing has been long and successful, but it has spanned a time when nursing has been in great transition. Inge's first preparation in nursing was a diploma program at Massachusetts General Hospital which she completed in 1943. The events in the world at that time were shaping Inge's life in many ways - one of which was her decision to enter nursing. Inge was farsighted and completed her B.S.N. in 1947. In 1957, she completed her master's degree at the University of Chicago and in 1969, she completed her Ph.D. at the same institution. So that it is clear that Inge was not constantly in school throughout that time, it is important to note that she, in fact, held several responsible positions in nursing education in the Chicago area - and had two children as well.

Ingeborg Mauksch chaired the American Nurses' Association, the Congress for Nursing Practice (from 1974-78), and served on the Commission on Research and now is on the Commission on Nursing Education as well as being ANA's Consultant for National Health Insurance. (The latter has taken her to testify to Senator Edward Kennedy's Senate Subcommittee on national health insurance.) She also gives generously of her talents to the Tennessee Nurses' Association and the local district nursing association. In 1980, the ANA recognized Inge for her many contributions by awarding her, at the biennial convention, the American Nurses' Association Honorary Membership Award.

At Vanderbilt, Inge is an active productive citizen far beyond her role as an important leader, teacher and scholar in the School of Nursing. She was the only woman member of the Faculty Reassessment Panel. It was she who chaired the Search Committee for the first Director of our Women's Center. She has served many years on the Executive Board of the Woman's Faculty Organization.

But Inge would not have had such impact on us, the women of this campus, if she were just a shaker and a mover in influential circles. That has been one part of her modeling to us. The other part has been her personal relationships, her close friendships with us. Inge's courage, intellect and caring has reached out to us - to give wise counsel and advice when the forces around us were unsupportive or even hostile, to bring sherbet to us when we were home sick (after she had a 12 hour day at the office), to share blouses when we were pregnant (after all why buy them for just a few months), to take into her busy schedule one more task to give us a break when she saw our exhaustion on the horizon, to go to the home of neighbors to give care to their dying mother, to send flowers, cards and notes when we needed hope, consolation, encouragement, and caring. She has argued with us, led us and been able to be both magnificent and mistaken. She is not perfect. Her realness gives us room to grow, opportunity to confront her - our model - and to see that she grows by knowing us just as we have grown from knowing and loving her. We will miss her very much!!

Sexual Assault Awareness

This fall a new program regarding sexual assaults will be initiated by Vanderbilt Safety and Security and the Women's Center. This program, "Sexual Assault Awareness: Prevention, Intervention, and Assistance," will be presented by Officers Gerri Peterson and Marlene Hall, for any groups on campus or in the hospital. The main objectives of the program are to show the best use of common sense methods and alternatives in the event of assault. The project entails the viewing of a 15-minute film, "Victim or Victor," which advises the techniques of prevention and intervention. After the film, advice will be given to the participants followed by a question-and-answer session.

Confidential assistance is available to anyone who needs aids for herself or a friend/relative. The program will stress preventative measures which may inhibit attack, whether in the Vanderbilt community or in other surroundings. Written materials will be distributed to the participants. Anyone interested in having this program presented may obtain information by calling Vanderbilt Safety and Security, 322-2745.

Risking Partnerships: Women and Men Face the 80's

Representing Vanderbilt University, Associate Dean Paulette Thompson and Political Science major Pat Sharkey attended the 16th Annual Symposium in the series *The Education of Women for Social and Political Leadership*. Entitled "Risking Partnership: Women and Men Face the 80's", the conference was held at Southern Methodist University in April 1981.

Speakers for the symposium were top notch: Caroline Bird, author of *The Two Pay Check Marriage*; Ellen Goodman, syndicated columnist, social commentator, humorist and author of *Close to Home*; Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, former congresswoman from California.

The resounding message coming forth seemed clear: Women in the 80's are facing many new challenges. It is time to stop the rhetoric and begin taking steps to determine our future. We can no longer look to government to provide pressure upon institutions to recognize, reward, and promote competent women; we must look to our own support groups. We must speak up! Network! Inform women about our rights! "Refuse to go back to *ante bellum* days!"

According to Caroline Bird, "Women's work is what men don't want to do at the moment." When addressing the topic "A New Force in the Labor Force" Ms. Bird envisions a time when we will need to look to alternative careers for women as they can benefit women who want to work but may need also to be at home. She cited examples of entire word processing departments being staffed by women at home through developments. For Caroline Bird, looking at alternative patterns is the strategy for the future.

The topic for Ellen Goodman was "Personal Dimensions: The High Stakes/The Payoffs in Equal Partnership." She talked about the conflicts women face and the process by which people change and are affected by change. Growth changes are often scary. We want to change and advance but we resist.

Ms. Goodman suggests that we are now facing many ambivalent feelings: Conflicts in caretaking versus achievement. We have a need for both. We have added one set of expectations on top of another. In spite of the social implications, the very real, practical and economic reality still exists: women earn 59¢ for every \$1.00 earned by a male.

Though no hard and fast answers are available, Ms. Goodman believes answers will come because of two categories of helpers: men and society, and the support both may provide. The answer she believes lies in men and women being able to talk to each other. Men must modify their expecta-

tions that women must be at home with the children and join forces with women to help promote and bring about change to help better all our lives.

The final speaker's subject was "Everybody's Business: Equality and Public Policy." It might be expected, Yvonne Braithwaite Burke talked about the advantages of knowing your government and knowing how to make it work for you. The political arena is one where change has occurred, though slowly and by no means enough. Areas women must begin to tap are: Consultant Committees—It is often the case that the committee exerts more power than the chair of the committee. We need to be informed about their functions and their makeup. Legislative lobbyist is another highly skilled position. We must encourage women to seek opportunities where they can learn about government, and what's available in it, and pass the information on.

-Paulette Thompson

Associate Dean of Student Affairs

ODC Director Sought

An advisory committee for the selection of the Opportunity Development Officer has been appointed by President Fields.

Kenneth U. Jordan, who had been Opportunity Development Officer since January 1, 1977, assumed the position of Executive Assistant to the President of Meharry Medical College in July. Associate Director Patricia Pierce will serve as Acting Opportunity Development Officer in the interim.

The nine-member advisory committee chaired by Reba Wilcoxon, Associate Vice-President for University Relations, is charged to recommend one or more persons to the President "at the earliest reasonable date," while following procedures that assure equal opportunity and affirmative action.

The Opportunity Development Officer assists Vanderbilt in identifying opportunities to achieve a diverse and just university community. The officer monitors compliance with legislation and regulations governing non-discrimination and affirmative action; coordinating recordkeeping and reporting required by such legislation and regulations. The officer also serves as an initial contact and informal intermediary for faculty, staff, and students who feel they may be experiencing prohibited or unlawful discrimination.

For information about the job description, minimum qualifications, and materials required for applications, contact Personnel Services or Dr. Wilcoxon's office, 332 Kirkland Hall. The deadline is September 15.



WOMEN'S INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS: Check the *Register* for try-outs and meetings of basketball, swimming and diving, tennis and cross-country teams.

...from the Women's Faculty Organization

LETTER TO VANDERBILT WOMEN:

The Women's Faculty Organization welcomes you! Our organization is now four years old, remains formally unaffiliated with the University, and continues to grow in membership, scope and vitality.

In addition to furthering the progress of faculty women and graduate students at Vanderbilt, the WFO has actively initiated a coalition with all women on campus, working particularly with students and with women in administration and staff positions. Many goals are held in common. It concerns us all that competence in women still goes unrecognized by many; that in some quarters women's excellence is not rewarded with the fidelity that greets a no better performance from men; and that desirable open positions are disproportionately filled by men, their being chosen over qualified women and at higher salaries than ever had been considered so long as the candidate was a woman.

For women faculty and graduate students, the WFO is prepared to offer in addition a communications network, a social support system, and material support in time of crisis. Notably, the WFO has contributed, by vote of Executive Committee, to the legal fees of Dr. Elizabeth Langland.*

In support of Dr. Langland, the WFO has joined with many others of the university community, including students, alumni, faculty and staff, as well as with interested men and women from outside Vanderbilt and even Nashville. It is broadly recognized that diversity is a mark of excellence in a university, but that Vanderbilt has not sufficiently pressed this goal. Of 218 tenured faculty in the College of Arts and Science, seven are women. Indeed, it would seem that in denying women tenure despite their achievements and the strong endorsements of their respective departments, the Vanderbilt administration has rejected diversity. Those who support Dr. Langland have the intellectual growth of the University in full view, and hold it as their higher value.

The WFO is a resource for you to use and develop. We welcome you. All faculty and graduate students are invited to an acquaintance wine and cheese party on September 16 from 4-6 p.m. The membership desk will also be open for your convenience.

It is essential to work together to bring healthy growth to our University.

Virginia Abernethy, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychiatry (Anthropology)
President, Women's Faculty Organization

*Last spring the Department of English recommended to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences that Elizabeth Langland be promoted from Assistant Professor of English to Associate Professor with tenure. In June, Dean Jacque Voegeli informed the

Fundraiser for Midwives Early October

Midwives have been practicing in this country since its beginning. Certified nurse-midwives, however, have only been part of the nation's health care system since the 1950's. The invaluable service these health care practitioners provide is well-known to thousands of families, particularly in the rural areas and the inner city where physicians are few and health needs are great.

Now, two very capable certified nurse-midwives are being denied the opportunity to provide care for patients in the hospitals of their choice; at the same time, consumers are being denied the option of maternity care offered by the CNMs.

These women, Susan Sizemore and Victoria Henderson, have begun a fight for the right to establish a private practice in nurse-midwifery in the city of Nashville. The Consumer Coalition for Health, a community-based organization, has joined them in this effort.

The main characters in this story are registered nurses who have had graduate education in nurse-midwifery and are certified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives. Both women have practiced midwifery at the MIC Program at Nashville General Hospital for the past five years. A market survey, done in 1979, demonstrated an active community interest in midwifery services.

In May 1980, Susan and Victoria opened Nurse-Midwifery Associates, intending to provide services to a clientele interested in a nurse-midwifery alternative for their health care needs. W. Darrell Martin, M.D., a board certified obstetrician-gynecologist, contracted with them to provide medical direction and consultation. Childbirth was to occur in a hospital setting to ensure access to specialized care should the need arise and according to the consumers' desire.

Over a nine-month period, several events occurred which necessitated the closure of the newly-formed Nurse-Midwifery Associates practice: (1) Three area hospitals refused to grant allied staff privileges to Susan and Victoria, (2) Dr. Martin's malpractice insurance was not renewed by a physician-owned insurance company, leading to his decision to leave Nashville, (3) Negotiations with other physicians to establish a col-

continued on page 4

Department that he would not approve the promotion. Dr. Langland believed that the Dean's decision to overrule the Department was unfair, and she sought legal advice and assistance. To help cover Dr. Langland's legal fees, friends established a fund which is called WEAV (Women's Equity at Vanderbilt).

The next issue of Women's VU will report in greater detail on this matter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC MAKERS are amateur musicians and singers who meet to perform together. The 1981-82 organizational meeting will be Monday, September 14, at 5:30 at the Women's Center.

STUDENTS FOR CHOICE is an advocacy group for women's reproductive rights and fertility control. An organizational meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16, at 5:30 p.m. at the Women's Center.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN AT VANDERBILT will meet September 22 for a dutch-treat breakfast beginning at 7:30 at Rand. Program will begin at 8:00: "Sexual Assault Awareness," presented by Campus Security officers Gerri Peterson and Marlene Hall. Notices with reservation forms will be mailed approximately two weeks prior to the meeting to women on our mailing list. For more information, call the Women's Center, 322-4843.

BROWN BAG LUNCHESES for staff women resume September 18 from 11:30 to 1:00 at the Women's Center. On the **THIRD** Friday of every month, staff women meet each other to hear a speaker or to talk. Bring your lunch; the Women's Center provides coffee and tea. Meetings are scheduled for October 16 and November 20. Watch the *Register* for further announcements.

WOMEN'S HEALTH CLASSES meet on Mondays from 11:00 to noon, September 21 through October 26, at the Women's Center. Discussions of various topics, including stress, sexuality, contraception, nutrition, self-care and assertiveness in health care will be led by faculty from the School of Nursing. Dates for specific topics can be obtained by calling the Women's Center, 322-4843; or by watching the *Register* for announcements.

EXERCISE AND FIGURE CONTROL CLASSES will be taught during the fall semester by Emily Harsh. Classes will meet on Monday and Wednesday at 11 a.m. or 12 noon. Tuesday and Thursday classes will begin at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. Classes will be held in the basement of Memorial Gymnasium and the sign-up date begins Thursday, September 3. Faculty and staff are invited to participate.

VANDERBILT FEMINISTS, a strictly social group, gathers at the Overcup Oak once a month for supper beginning September 30, at 5:30 p.m.

Engineering

continued from page 1

The women engineers also put together a program on "Counseling High School Students for Careers in Engineering." Six students presented the program at the State Convention of Tennessee Personnel and Guidance Association in Nashville last April. The presentation explained a packet of information the group designed on opportunities in engineering and preparing for engineering school.

Copies of the counseling packet are still available. SWE members would like to speak to groups interested in knowing more about careers in engineering. Anyone wishing more information about the packet and speakers, the newsletter, other SWE activities, or SWE membership should write or call: Society of Women Engineers, Box 56-B, Vanderbilt, 37235 (phone: 322-3700).

-Martha A. Nord

*Counselor, Society of Women Engineers
Vanderbilt Student Section*

Midwives *continued from page 3*

laborative practice arrangement were unsuccessful.

Under these circumstances the nurse-midwives were forced to close on December 31, 1980, and transferred almost 100 clients to other providers.

The Consumer Coalition for Health is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to insuring that high quality, personally acceptable, and cost-effective health care is available to all community members. The Coalition has organized a Nurse-Midwifery Project to support efforts to ensure consumers the right to freedom of choice, and nurse-midwives their right to practice their licensed profession.

In an effort to raise monies for the support of a nurse-midwifery practice in this community, the Consumer Coalition for Health will sponsor a benefit at Scarritt College on Saturday, October 3, 6:30 to 9:30 PM. A wine and cheese reception, the benefit will include an address by Congressman Albert Gore (D.-Tn) and the Nashville premiere of "Daughters of Time" - an American Film Festival nominee. Tickets (\$10.00 per person) are tax-deductible and may be purchased at the door or by calling 383-1434 or 292-0526.



HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES short courses for women, jointly sponsored by the YWCA Women's Resource Center and the Vanderbilt Women's Center, have been expanded for the 1981-82 academic year. Seven different classes, in literature, minority women, mental and physical health, and social change, will be offered. Some classes will meet in the evening. A separate brochure on these courses is available at the Women's Center or the YWCA.

Edited by Linda Karwedsky

If you are not receiving a labeled copy of WOMEN'S VU, please return the form below or call the Women's Center, ext. 4843, to get your name on the list.

We regret that newsletters will be sent to off-campus addresses only for a \$2.00 fee. Please make checks out to the Vanderbilt Women's Center.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Student _____ (please give class and school)

Staff _____ Faculty _____



Women's Center
Vanderbilt University
E-2 West Side Row
Box 1513, Station B
Nashville, TN 37235